News Notes
from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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CHURCH-COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS PLAN JULY CONFERENCE

The annual one-day conference of the Church-College Public Relations Officers will be held in Washington, D. C., July 10th, 1960.

General plans are as follows:

12:30 - 3:00 p.m. Denominational Luncheons
(Each church will make its own arrangements and promotion. Please clear with Frank Ashmore of the A.C.P.R.A. and inform the Commission office.)
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Panel Discussion
5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Recess for ACPRA and AAC Reception and Dinner
8:00 p.m. Evening Session

Judging by the enthusiastic response to the previous programs this should be well attended. Church College Public Relations Officers are urged to set the date aside now.

NSCF AND THE SIT-DOWNS

In response to appeals from students in Nashville for help in getting out accurate information on the segregation sit-downs the National Student Christian Federation has put out several information bulletins and gives a summary of developments in the April issue of Communique. It is felt that events challenge Christian students to take seriously the involvement in the "racial frontier" talked about at Athens. N.S.C.F. is proceeding thoughtfully - has sent a "Letter to Christian Students in the U.S.," has established a "Legal Aid and Scholarship Fund" and has outlined a number of "Suggestions of Response to Student Demonstrations." Among them:

- Strengthen the bonds of fellowship between Christians of different races and nations in your situation.
- Know what is going on and discuss the basic issues.
- Make your Christian group a source of information about these events.
- Witness in prayer and visit those in jail.

Copies of Communique with the full report are available from N.S.C.F., 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Two attractive pieces of literature announce:

1. A Religious Arts Festival related to the National Methodist Student Movement Conference, Columbia, Missouri, December 27th to January 1st, 1961. This is "A special effort to add to the Christian witness of the Methodist Student Movement through the use of art." Special consideration will be given to the following art forms: poetry, architecture, drama, music, photography, films, painting and sculpture, and dance. For further information write Dr. Harvey C. Brown, Arts Festival Committee, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.
2. An MSN Photography Awards Competition on the theme, Mans' Search for Meaning. Write Mr. B. J. Styles, P.O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO METHODISM

We have all heard of and are encouraged by the higher education emphasis for the 1956-60 Quadrennium voted by the General Conference of the Methodist Church. "It called upon Methodists 'to serve the present age' through a strenuous effort in higher education." It is good now to read of the fine work that has been done in "a preliminary report of the staff of the General Conference Commission on Christian Higher Education." The report starts out by outlining the philosophy and theological perspective of the emphasis, then deals with each one of the goals and achievements. There were eight goals starting with "to strengthen the bond between educational institutions and the church" and ending with "to request annual conferences to set aside funds for their schools and colleges...with due recognition of the needs of the schools historically operated for Negroes."

There isn't space to go into detail, but we simply record the measurable success indicated by increased financial support. "We have increased our giving to our colleges and universities from $3,953,485 in 1956 to $6,814,302 in 1959. For Wesley Foundations our giving increased from $777,984 in 1956 to $1,844,656 in 1959. We can report that the total church giving for all its educational institutions was $5,452,456 in 1956 and to the same institutions for current support the church gave $10,747,268 in 1959." Congratulations go to John O. Gross and his able staff including Rev. Woodrow A. Geier who prepared the report.

REPORT OF FACULTY CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGY

At a recent meeting of the General Committee of the Faculty Christian Fellowship, attention was given to the theological study consultation held late last year resulting in the following record in the minutes.

"It was asked, how do we invite theological study. Study guides must plunge the readers into the lively issues involved. This is a great debate going on theologically and in intellectual depth. What we need is a manifesto, a statement that would say the hour has struck to get a deeper level of seriousness and here is how we propose to do this. An unresolved question was how to get the FCF theological concern to pastors in terms of their preaching to faculty, students and college grads. Can the FCF get a dialogue going between pastors and faculty? It was hoped that this type of issue might be of concern to some of the FCF state and area conferences a pattern for at least one annual meeting." Bill Mueller, chairman of FCF, has written a report of the theological study consultation under the title, 'Invitation to Theological Learning'. This will be published in the Christian Scholar. It was agreed to authorize the Executive Committee to proceed to produce study guides for the fall."

RSV NOT TAINTED

Administrators, Chaplains and Professors of Religion in our southern church colleges will be interested to know that there has been established a Southern Committee on the Use and Understanding of the Bible. This committee is planning an interesting "regional thrust" program in the south. The "thrust" includes continued use of the RSV program guide and the holding of one, two or three Bible institutes and conferences using the resources and leadership of the National Council, State Councils and Local Councils, denominations and the American Bible Society. They also hope to encourage both colleges and church-related universities to include Bible courses, local and community Bible classes and small group Bible group study programs. For more information we suggest writing to Dr. J. Edward Lantz in the southern office of the NCC.

ACPRA CONFERENCE

We call attention to the fact that American College Public Relations Association will be holding a second summer institute for college development officers this year at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, August 7th to 17th. For information write to the national office of ACPRA, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

MORE SUPPORT FOR WUS

Where is World University Service going and how can we strengthen it was the question asked at a consultation of officers and representatives of the sponsors held recently. Some of the facts and questions that emerged are interesting.

- A generation of students and student work leaders that do not know WUS and other such agencies is growing up. How can they develop a live interest in this and other such agencies to which their movement and churches are committed?
- As WUS has sought support from the whole campus Christian groups have felt less responsibility.
- There were questions about the meaning of "Educational" programs.
- What is the relation of WUS to its sponsors? How can it carry on a program that is free of direct sponsor control yet responsible to sponsor concern?
- There were some excellent statements on the religious base of WUS support.
- While sponsored by Catholic and Jewish agencies and the N.S.A. as well as the Protestant National Student Christian Federation, WUS is largely a Protestant agency and needs continuing strong Protestant support.

The conference ended with most questions answered, a manifesto of support from the sponsors and plans for more effective policy guidance from the sponsors.

GOOD BOOK NEGLECTED

Some how we have neglected to call attention to the book Teacher Education and Religion edited by A. L. Sebaly and containing chapters by Everett J. Kircher, Harold Schilling and others. Kircher's chapter is an excellent analysis of the whole problem and sets the background for our consultation on a Protestant Philosophy of Education. Published by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Oneonta, New York.

NEW BOOKS

Other books -

Christian Faith and the Liberal Arts, Symposium, Ditmanson & Hong, Ed. Augsburg Press 1960
(Haven't read yet, looks excellent.)
The Aims of Education and Other Essays, A. N. Whitehead: MacMillan 1959 (reprint)
Education for American Democracy, E. J. Powers, McGraw-Hill, 1958
(Catholic view of education as Christian and humanistic.)
The Law and Public Education, Hamilton & Mort, Foundation Press 1959
The Church and Secular Education, Lewis Bliss, Seabury, 1960

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NCC

The new wave of attacks on the National Council of Churches occasioned by the Air Force Manual episode has led many friends to seek answers to sincere though rather silly questions. For that reason, we enclose a booklet that may be of some assistance. We also recommend looking at Roy's book "Apostles of Discord" and going back a few years to Younger's Congregational Social Action pamphlet, "Protestant Piety and the Right Wing."

USEFUL BIBLIOGRAPHY

A useful volume for libraries anxious to respond to the current upsurge of interest in foreign areas is "A Select Bibliography: Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America." The bibliography was compiled and annotated by Staff Associates of the American Universities Field Staff, financed by the Ford Foundation. Cost $4.75. Write - American Universities Field Staff Inc., 366 Madison Avenue, N.Y. 17.

ANY ANSWERS?

How shall we interpret this interesting comment by the Librarian of General Theological Seminary who previous to her five years at General had worked in a botanical library at Harvard and a medical library at Boston University?
"In the medical library our clientele passed up the medical books for the periodicals wherever possible. They explained to me that medical knowledge was advancing so fast that by the time a book was printed it was out of date...In our library (General Theological Seminary) we loan easily one hundred books to every one periodical. Does this mean that religious knowledge is not progressing as fast as medical? Does it signify that it is unimportant for a clergyman to know what is being published in religious magazines? Many clergymen who allow themselves one hour a day for reading have a twinge of conscience. Should they?...Does the layman know that many of the best minds are now attracted to the study of religion?...

How much does the layman understand about the advances which have been made in the religious field in the last fifty years?"

Secretary Arthur Flemming has recently listed the names of about 30 "diploma mills" issuing fraudulent college degrees. Since many of these pose as religious, we have some extra responsibility in giving these names wide circulation as a protection to potential victims. (These are taken from a N.Y. Times Story 4/11/60)

DIPLOMA MILLS

Institute of Metaphysics, Birmingham, Alabama
Church of Light, Los Angeles, California
Burton College and Seminary, Manitou Springs, Colorado
Divine Science Church and College, Denver, Colorado
American Bible School, Chicago, Illinois
American Divinity School, Pineland, Florida
College of Universal Truth, Chicago, Illinois
Kondora Theosophical Seminary, Chicago, Illinois
McKinley-Roosevelt, Inc., Chicago, Illinois
Pioneer Theological Seminary, Rockford, Illinois
University Extension Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois
Washington National University, Chicago, Illinois
Central School of Religion, Indianapolis, Indiana
College of Divine Metaphysics, Indianapolis, Indiana
Trinity College, Indianapolis, Indiana
Mid-Western University, Inc., Arcadia, Missouri
Neotarian Fellowship, Kansas City, Missouri
Four States Cooperation University, Jefferson, Texas
Texas Theological University, Chicago, Illinois
Belin Memorial University, Manassas, Virginia

Listed as chartered in the United States but active abroad were:

American International Academy, New York, New York
Chartered University of Huron
Chartered University of Delaware
International University of Delaware
National University of Colorado
International Corporation of Engineers, Delaware
Milton University, Baltimore, Maryland
National University and National Research Institute
Western University, San Diego, California

Listed as inactive were:

Cramwell Research Institute, Adams, Massachusetts
Golden State University, Hollywood, California and Denver, Colorado
Metropolitan University, Glendale, California
Webster University, Atlanta

Here is the current "Box Score" of appointments and openings for Ecumenical Voluntary Service Projects.

A CHANCE TO SERVE

Europe 77 appointments, 20 openings, men needed
Greece 7 appointments, 4 openings
Africa 6 appointments, 18 openings
Asia 12 appointments, 14 openings
US-USSR Exchange - 11 openings all filled.
US, 50 appointments, 70 openings, men needed

Can our churches and campus ministries raise the level of Christian service motive for this program?

Hubert C. Noble, General Director